

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 183

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Linda Bennett on her selection as a Tennessee Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Linda Bennett is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett has recently been selected as Teacher of the Year at Cane Creek Elementary School, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes that positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett received her Master's degree in English with a minor in American History from Tennessee Technological University (TTU), where she also completed thirty course hours beyond the Master's degree; and

WHEREAS, she has served with acumen and alacrity as a Title 1 third- and fourth-grade teacher for Cane Creek Elementary since 2001; prior to working at Cane Creek, Ms. Bennett was the Putnam County Parent Involvement Coordinator from 2000 to 2001; she also taught for Cookeville High School, Jere Whitson Elementary, Nashville State Community College, and TTU, for a total of nineteen exemplary years of teaching; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett is a member of a number of worthy organizations, such as the National Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the Putnam County Education Association, the National Council of the Teachers of English, the International Reading Association, and the Phi Alpha Theta National History Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, she has lent her time and professional talents to numerous activities, including serving as a Mentor for Title 1 assistants; she has also supervised many practicum students and student teachers; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Ms. Bennett has received many distinguished awards and recognitions throughout her tenure as a teacher, including Cane Creek Teacher of the Year, mention in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, a nomination for Disney's National Teacher of the Year, and Jere Whitson Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Linda Bennett is also most notable for her tireless commitment to community service; among innumerable other worthy endeavors, she has sponsored the March of Dimes Walk, is a monthly contributor to St. Jude's Hospital and other charities, is a two-and-a-half-gallon blood donor to the American Red Cross, and contributes to student scholarships at Nashville State Community College and TTU; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, she truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Linda Bennett on being chosen as Teacher of the Year at Cane Creek Elementary School, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.